

school, and families taking trips to the beach during the summer. Of course, we also think of commutes to and from work.

What I have just described is our American economy in motion, and none of it would be possible without quality highway pavements of which asphalt is one. Just 50 years ago, the country faced a transportation crisis. In 1955, it was not easy to travel from city to city because the Interstate Highway System did not exist. The roads were unsafe, slow, and difficult to use. Traveling from city to city, which today could be done in hours took days.

In the early 20th century, asphalt pavements helped get America out of the mud. In the latter half of that century, the new Interstate Highway System improved our mobility and helped sustain our country's economic growth. The Interstate Highway System's pavements literally were the foundation upon which the United States and her people were able to emerge as the leaders of the world.

It was no accident that NAPA was formed just as the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 was winding its way through Congress. The industry was challenged by the need to construct long lasting pavements that could meet the tougher standards of the Interstate Highway System. In rising to that challenge, the first ambitious program announced by the association was the Quality Improvement Program. Ever since then, dedication to helping its members deliver the best quality asphalt pavement has been a top priority.

I am very proud of the fact that the late John W. Kelly, of the firm Amis & Kelly Construction Company in Oklahoma City, was one of the founding fathers of NAPA. From 1958 to 1960, John W. Kelly served as the second president of the Association. NAPA has also enjoyed 50 years of strong partnership with the Oklahoma Asphalt Pavement Association which was formed in 1952.

I congratulate NAPA and its members for 50 years of leadership and involvement in constructing a world-class road system.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 135) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 135

Whereas in 2005, the National Asphalt Pavement Association (incorporated on May 17, 1955, as the National Bituminous Concrete Association) celebrates its 50th anniversary;

Whereas the members of the National Asphalt Pavement Association play a key role in strengthening the economy of the United States and promoting the mobility of citi-

zens of the United States by providing hot-mix asphalt used in the construction of the 41,000-mile Interstate Highway System and other highways, streets, roads, parking lots, and airports;

Whereas the National Asphalt Pavement Association has focused on continually improving the quality of asphalt pavement by establishing a quality improvement program;

Whereas the National Asphalt Pavement Association has facilitated technology transfer and advanced new asphalt pavement technologies through partnerships, scanning tours, publications, and presentations;

Whereas the National Asphalt Pavement Association, through members of the Association, has fostered and encouraged young people to pursue careers in civil engineering by establishing the National Asphalt Pavement Association Research and Education Foundation to provide scholarships, sponsor educational exhibitions, and fund research of national significance relating to hot-mix asphalt;

Whereas the National Asphalt Pavement Association, through members of the Association, endowed the National Center for Asphalt Technology, the world's premier institution for asphalt research, and continues to fund the activities of the Center; and

Whereas the National Asphalt Pavement Association will continue to contribute to research to ensure that the Interstate Highway System will be designed and constructed for perpetual use in order to meet the growing economic and national security needs of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the National Asphalt Pavement Association on its 50th anniversary; and

(2) recognizes and celebrates the achievements of the members of the National Asphalt Pavement Association for their contributions to the economic well-being of the citizens of the United States.

HONORING TUSKEGEE AIRMEN FOR THEIR BRAVERY IN FIGHTING FOR OUR FREEDOM IN WORLD WAR II

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent that the Armed Services Committee be discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 26, and the Senate now proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 26) honoring the Tuskegee Airmen for their bravery in fighting for our freedom in World War II, and for their contribution in creating an integrated United States Air Force.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 26) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I note that I am extremely proud, as all of

our Nation is, of the Tuskegee Airmen. Recently, I had the privilege to be in Iraq and visit the airbase where the unit, still known as the Tuskegee Airmen, was deployed. They had their banners up and it was an honor to be with them. Their heritage of excellence lives on.

CALLING ON GOVERNMENT OF FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA TO TRANSFER CHARLES GHANKAY TAYLOR, FORMER PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, TO SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 127, which we received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 127) calling on the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to transfer Charles Ghankay Taylor, former President of the Republic of Liberia, to the Special Court for Sierra Leone to be tried for war crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 127) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 989

Mr. SESSIONS. I understand there is a bill at the desk. I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 989) to ensure that a Federal employee who takes leave without pay in order to perform service as a member of the uniformed services or member of the National Guard shall continue to receive pay in an amount which, when taken together with the pay and allowances such individual is receiving for such service, will be no less than the basic pay such individual would then be receiving if no interruption in employment had occurred.

Mr. SESSIONS. I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.